

FEDERAL ELECTION  
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MUR # 6862

**SENSITIVE**

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OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

**KEEP LOUISIANA WORKING**

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August 14, 2014

Office of the General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20463

Re: *Complaint Against U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu and Friends of Mary Landrieu*

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves as a formal complaint that U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu and her political committee, Friends of Mary Landrieu, have violated federal law. The following is based on information and belief from media reports, unless otherwise noted.

1. On August 12, 2014, the Friends of Mary Landrieu publicly acknowledged that on at least one occasion, on November 8, 2013, U.S. government funds were used to pay for political and fundraising activities that benefited her re-campaign for the U.S. Senate. See attached CNN report. Specifically, the Office of Senator Mary Landrieu expended \$3,224.08 for a November 8, 2013 charter flight from New Orleans, Louisiana to Lake Charles, Louisiana for the purpose of transporting Senator Landrieu to a campaign fundraising event.

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2. The fundraising event in Lake Charles, Louisiana was titled a "Women's Luncheon to re-elect U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu" and photos of the Senator greeting supporters at the event were posted on Twitter by the Friends of Mary Landrieu. See attached image of invitation and photo of Senator Landrieu.
  3. The use of government funds by Senator Landrieu to further campaign or political activities is a violation of federal law. Federal government monies and resources may be used for official purposes only. See 31 U.S.C. § 1301(a) and Senate Ethics Manual, 2003 Edition, Page 146.
  4. The failure of the Friends of Mary Landrieu to pay for and report the \$3,224.08 expenditure for air transportation to a campaign fundraising event is a violation of federal law. See 2 U.S.C. 432(e) and 2 U.S.C. § 434(b). Expenditures made to promote Senator Landrieu's candidacy must be paid for with campaign funds and reported to the Federal Elections Commission ("F.E.C").
  5. According to the Friends of Mary Landrieu, the luncheon fundraising event was the Senator's sole purpose for her air travel from New Orleans to Lake Charles on November 8, 2013. According to the Office of Senator Mary Landrieu, the fundraising event prevented her from accompanying President Obama during his visit to New Orleans at any time on November 8, 2013. See attached *Talking Points Memo* article.
  6. The violations of federal law by Senator Landrieu and the Friends of Senator Landrieu came to light as a result of a July 31, 2014 *USA Today* article documenting \$47,000 of U.S. government funds spent by Senator Landrieu on charter flights. See attached *USA Today* report. Four days following the article's publication and nearly nine months after the Senator's charter flight, the Friends of Mary Landrieu finally agreed to reimburse the federal government \$3,224.08 for the Lake Charles trip.
  7. Senator Landrieu's travel was not "mixed purpose" travel designed to transport her to events related to her campaign for re-election as well as to events related her official duties as a U.S. Senator. Accordingly, payment for

the charter flight with U.S. government funds is prohibited and Senator Landrieu and the Friends of Mary Landrieu remain in violation federal law and F.E.C. regulations despite reimbursement of the government for the prohibited \$3,224.08 political expenditure nine months after it occurred.

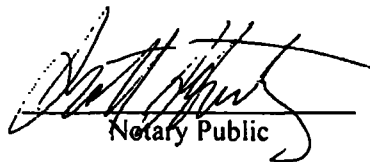
See 11 C.F.R. § 106.3 and Senate Ethics Manual, 2003 Edition, Page 119.

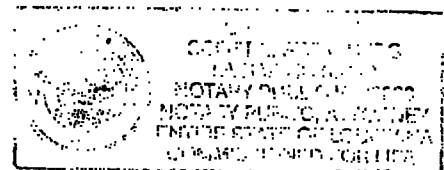
Based on the forgoing and the admission by the Friends of Mary Landrieu that U.S. government monies were used to pay for political campaign activities, I respectfully request that the F.E.C. take enforcement action against Senator Landrieu and her campaign committee to ensure that taxpayer resources are not used for political gain in violation of federal law.

Sincerely,

Emily Cornell  
Emily@KeepLouisianaWorking.com

Sworn to and subscribed before Scott Sternberg, notary public commissioned and qualified in the State of Louisiana, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 2014.

  
Notary Public



11965669.1

This data was parsed on an experimental basis by the Sunlight Foundation from Senate disbursement reports. Please cite 'The Sunlight Foundation' in any usage. For more information see the readme at [http://assets-reporting.s3.amazonaws.com/1.0/senate\\_disbursements/readme.txt](http://assets-reporting.s3.amazonaws.com/1.0/senate_disbursements/readme.txt).

source_doc	senator_name	raw office	funding_year	date_posted	start_date	end_date	description	amount	payee
		SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	3/14/2014	1/21/2014	1/21/2014	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU NEW ORLEANS TO LAFAYETTE AND LANDRIEU RETURN	2,263.83	BUTLER AVIATION INC
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2013 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2013	10/23/2013	8/4/2013	8/4/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU NEW ORLEANS TO LAKE CHARLES AND LANDRIEU RETURN	4,047.04	BUTLER AVIATION INC
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	12/30/2013	11/8/2013	11/8/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU NEW ORLEANS TO LAKE CHARLES AND LANDRIEU RETURN	3,224.08	BUTLER AVIATION INC
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2013 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2013	10/22/2013	12/9/2012	12/9/2012	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU NEW ORLEANS TO WASHINGTON DC	397.8	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2013	11/1/2013	8/28/2013	8/28/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU NEW ORLEANS TO WASHINGTON DC	541.9	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	2/6/2014	11/19/2013	11/19/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU NEW ORLEANS TO WASHINGTON DC	1,300.90	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	1/8/2014	12/5/2013	12/5/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU NEW ORLEANS TO WASHINGTON DC	407.3	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	2/6/2014	1/2/2014	1/2/2014	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU NEW ORLEANS TO WASHINGTON DC	397.9	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	3/7/2014	1/26/2014	1/26/2014	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU NEW ORLEANS TO WASHINGTON DC	597	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2013 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2013	11/1/2013	7/19/2013	7/19/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU PHILADELPHIA PA TO NEW ORLEANS	610.3	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	3/14/2014	10/27/2013	10/28/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU SHREVEPORT, BATON ROUGE, ALEXANDRIA, NEW ORLEANS	6,213.50	BUTLER AVIATION INC
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	1/8/2014	11/29/2013	11/29/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU WASHINGTON DC TO BATON ROUGE	478.8	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2013 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2013	11/1/2013	9/2/2013	9/2/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU WASHINGTON DC TO NEW ORLEANS	534.8	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2013	11/1/2013	9/20/2013	9/20/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU WASHINGTON DC TO NEW ORLEANS	397.9	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	2/6/2014	12/20/2013	12/20/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU WASHINGTON DC TO NEW ORLEANS	596.9	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	3/10/2014	1/19/2014	1/19/2014	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU WASHINGTON DC TO NEW ORLEANS	398	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA

113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	3/7/2014	1/30/2014	1/30/2014	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU WASHINGTON DC TO NEW ORLEANS	398 JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	3/7/2014	1/31/2014	1/31/2014	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU WASHINGTON DC TO NEW ORLEANS	40 JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2014 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2014	1/8/2014	11/22/2013	11/22/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE FOR SEN LANDRIEU WASHINGTON DC TO NEW ORLEANS	795.8 JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA
113_sdoc22	MARY L. LANDRIEU	SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU Funding Year 2013 SENATORS OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	2013	11/7/2013	9/22/2013	9/22/2013	SENATOR'S TRANSPORTATION + AIRFARE SEN LANDRIEU NEW ORLEANS TO SHREVEPORT TO DALLAS TX	5,721.23 BUTLER AVIATION INC

**Picture of Senator Landrieu in Attendance at Lake Charles Fundraising Event Posted on the Senator's Political Twitter Account**



**Mary Landrieu** Mary Landrieu

11/8/13

Thank you to the 100s of women who came to my Lake Charles event this afternoon! [pic.twitter.com/4X5dlZm3d7](https://pic.twitter.com/4X5dlZm3d7)

Hide photo



4

1



12:42 PM · 11/8/13 · Retweeted

11/8/13

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(Mary Landrieu, Twitter Feed, 11/8/13)

11/8/13 12:42 PM

Invitation/RSVP to Lake Charles Fundraising Event as Appeared on MaryLandrieu.com



*Please join us for a Women's Luncheon  
to re-elect*

**U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu**

November 8, 2013  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

The Cash and Carry  
801 Enterprise Blvd.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601

TICKET	QTY
Ticket (\$40)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Table (\$320)	<input type="text" value="0"/>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>

IF REFERRED BY A HOST, SELECT NAME: (NOT  
REQUIRED TO ATTEND;

[Continue to Payment](#)

[Click here if you can't attend but still want  
to contribute.](#)

To RSVP online or for additional information, please  
contact Andrea Gonsouh at  
[Andrea@MaryLandrieu.com](mailto:Andrea@MaryLandrieu.com)  
or by phone at (337) 265-2477

("Lake Charles Luncheon," [Mary Landrieu](#), Accessed 11/16/13)

**After Flying To Louisiana On Air Force One, Sen. Landrieu Skips Obama Event**

Talking Points Memo

Daniel Strauss

November 8, 2013

<http://talkingpointsmemo.com/livewire/after-flying-to-louisiana-on-air-force-one-sen-landrieu-skips-event-with-obama>

Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) skipped an event with President Barack Obama in her homestate of Louisiana on Friday.

The senator from Louisiana got a ride to her homestate on Air Force One but did not appear with Obama while he toured the Port of New Orleans for an event on the economy.

Obama praised Landrieu during his visit saying that "nobody is a tougher advocate" for the people of Louisiana than Landrieu, according to Huffington Post reporter Jennifer Bendery.

In a press gaggle with reporters White House deputy press secretary Josh Earnest was asked about criticism that Landrieu decided to fly on Air Force One but not join Obama at the event.

"Well, I don't want to -- I haven't spoken to Senator Landrieu about it," Earnest said according to a White House readout of the press gaggle. "I did read in some local report that she has another event in another part of the state today. You should check with her. But my hunch is that she is strongly supportive of the President's efforts to promote investments in the Port of New Orleans and in other infrastructure projects like it that are so critical to the economy not just in the New Orleans area, but all across the country."

Landrieu's office said she could not accompany Obama because of previously scheduled events in Lake Charles.

"Sen. Landrieu traveled aboard Air Force One to New Orleans. During the flight, she spoke to the President about the importance of flood insurance reform and thanked him for his help with the disaster loan forgiveness that came this week for St. Tammany and Jefferson parishes," Landrieu spokesman Matthew Lehner said in a statement to TPM.

"She, along with Gov. Bobby Jindal and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, greeted the President at Louis Armstrong International Airport.

"Due to previously long-scheduled events in Lake Charles, the Senator did not attend the event at the Port of New Orleans."

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## **Senators spent \$1 million on charter flights last year**

USA Today

Donovan Slack and Paul Singer

July 31, 2014

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2014/07/31/senators-charter-1million-flights/13379561/>

WASHINGTON — Last summer, Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., embarked on what his office trumpeted as a four-day, 1,000-mile trip across his state, with press releases noting he "woke up early to hit the road," making stops at a minor league ballpark, a craft brewery and a Roanoke rail yard, among others.

But for several hundred of those miles, Warner was not hitting the road — he was flying a chartered jet at a cost to taxpayers of \$8,500.

Warner was one of two dozen U.S. senators who flew taxpayer-funded charter airplanes to, from or around their home state last year at a total cost of just under \$1 million, according to a USA TODAY analysis of Senate spending records compiled by the nonpartisan Sunlight Foundation.

Senators pay for their official duties from taxpayer-funded accounts set aside for them to cover costs of staff, travel, office supplies and the like. The rules allow them to use these accounts to pay for charter aircraft for official travel when commercial flights "are not such that reasonable schedules may be kept." Senators decide which way to travel, and some eschewed private jets in favor of flying commercial or simply driving.

Warner's 1,000-mile trip took him to the far reaches of western Virginia, which is pretty remote territory with no commercial airports. But a month earlier, Virginia's other U.S. senator, Tim Kaine, made a swing to the same corner of the state by car; his travel cost taxpayers \$691. Both Warner and Kaine are Democrats representing the state that is closest to the U.S. Capitol.

"Sen. Warner is a road warrior, and he insists on a schedule that goes from dawn to dusk," said Kevin Hall, Warner's spokesman. "He spent 75 days on the road in Virginia last year, and that does not include events here in Northern Virginia."

Hall said the road trip involved 25 public events across the state. "Using a plane to get from one end of the state to the other freed-up more than 12 hours of driving time, and this allowed us to schedule several additional events and create more opportunities to meet with our Virginia constituents."

Many of the senators reporting charter flights hail from large and sparsely populated states. For instance, Republican John Barrasso of Wyoming reported charter flights totaling \$83,000 in 2013, including a \$3,700 trip to Cowley, Wyo., a town of fewer than 1,000 people on the state's northern border. His colleague

1-504-471-0002

Mike Enzi, also a Republican, spent just under \$32,000 on charter flights last year. Both offices said the geography of the state required charter travel to reach constituents.

But the top two charter fliers in 2013 were Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, both Democrats of New York — a large but more densely populated state with a lot of commercial transportation options.

Schumer on several occasions spent more than \$5,000 from his office account to charter planes between New York City and Albany, Buffalo and Rochester, even though cheaper commercial flights and trains link the cities. Gillibrand regularly chartered flights from Washington to places in New York with multiple transportation options.

Aides to Gillibrand and Schumer said their schedules precluded them from traveling by other means. Schumer spokesman Matt House tried to dispel any notion that the senator was charging taxpayers for high-flying luxuries.

"It is not possible to keep this rigorous a schedule by flying on commercial airlines alone, so he also travels on a small, four-seat propeller plane with no bathroom that's not even big enough to stand up in," House said.

In some cases senators representing the same state split on whether to fly charters.

For instance, Sen. Mary Landrieu, a Democrat, spent \$47,000 on charter flights in 2013, including a \$5,500 round trip flight between New Orleans and Lake Charles, La., 200 miles to the west. Landrieu spokesman Matthew Lehner said chartering planes allowed the senator to reach more areas of the state more quickly.

"This alleviates the need for multi-day stopovers and maximizes the senator's interaction with her constituents," he said.

But Republican David Vitter, the other Louisiana senator, reported no charter flights. His spokesman, Luke Bolar, said the senator always flies commercial and drives rather than flies around Louisiana.

In Texas, Sen. Ted Cruz, a Republican, spent about \$18,000 on charter flights around the state. "We will sometimes use a charter when there is not a commercial flight available to get him between official events scheduled in the state," Cruz spokeswoman Catherine Frazier said.

"As you know, Texas is a rather large state, and we do our best to maximize his time with constituents in different regions," Frazier said. But the Lone Star State's other senator, Republican John Cornyn, used only commercial transportation.

In West Virginia, Sen. Joe Manchin recorded no charter flights in 2013, while fellow Democratic Sen. Jay Rockefeller, who announced at the beginning of last year that he would not run for re-election, took \$91,000 worth of charter flights. Rockefeller's office did not respond to requests for comment on this story.

Overall, 14 Republicans, nine Democrats and one independent reported charter flights in 2013, but Democrats spent \$638,000 of the \$920,000 total spent on charters.

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## **Sen. Mary Landrieu's campaign flight was charged to taxpayers**

CNN

Chris Frates

August 12, 2014

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/12/politics/sen-mary-landrieu-campaign-finance/>

(CNN) -- Sen. Mary Landrieu made headlines last November when she hitched a ride home on Air Force One with President Obama, but chose not to attend his event in New Orleans. Another lesser-known flight Landrieu took that same day mistakenly cost taxpayers more than \$3,000.

CNN has learned that the vulnerable Louisiana Democrat used government money to charter a private plane to travel to a campaign fundraiser, in violation of federal law.

Landrieu spent more than \$3,200 in taxpayer money to fly 400 miles round trip from New Orleans to Lake Charles, Louisiana, where she attended a \$40-per person fundraising lunch with hundreds of women, according to Senate records and Landrieu campaign information. It is illegal to spend government money campaigning.

Landrieu's campaign spokesman, Fabien Levy, said in a statement that the charter company mistakenly billed Landrieu's Senate office instead of her re-election campaign. Levy said the campaign noticed the error a few weeks ago and asked the company to refund the Senate office and bill the campaign, which the company did. Levy said Landrieu's re-election campaign paid for the flight August 4, almost nine months after the November 8 trip.

"We take our finances very seriously and are glad we caught the vendor's mistake and were able to rectify the matter as soon as possible," Levy said.

The campaign didn't notice the mistake until July 29. Two days later, on July 31, USA Today published a story showing that Landrieu was one of the Senate's most frequent fliers, spending \$47,000 last year on taxpayer-funded charter flights. Levy told CNN that media scrutiny of Senate office expense reports spurred the campaign to review its travel records.

Even though the mistake was corrected, the campaign still violated federal law and could face civil fines, said Paul S. Ryan, senior counsel at the Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan campaign watchdog.

"It is the senator and the senator's staff responsibility to comply with federal laws. It's not the job of the vendor, per se," Ryan said. "It sounds like their excuse is, 'We didn't do anything wrong; it's the vendor.' It's the job of the senator and her staff not to pay bills out of a Senate office account if those bills were not for Senate business."

Ryan argued that even though Landrieu fixed the error, the law should still be enforced.

"If senators were allowed to pay for their campaign expenses out of taxpayer dollars that challengers don't have access to, that's a major unfair advantage to incumbents," he said.

Landrieu took the charter flight the same day Obama delivered a speech on the economy in New Orleans. The senator cited her busy schedule as the reason she didn't accompany the President in her hometown.

"I was hosting a lunch in Lake Charles for 300 women and I wasn't going to stand them up. I'm sorry I couldn't be with the President," she told CNN's Wolf Blitzer a few days later.

At the time, Obama was under fire for the disastrous rollout of HealthCare.gov and breaking his promise that people could keep their health insurance coverage under Obamacare.

Landrieu's decision not to attend his event was widely seen as an acknowledgment that the President, who was already deeply unpopular in Louisiana, was a political liability for the vulnerable Democrat, especially since she cast a pivotal vote in support of Obamacare.